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MCANDREWS HELD & MALLOY, LTD
500 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 3400
CHICAGO IL 60661

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Chan	:	
Application No. 10/612,729	:	ON APPLICATION FOR
Filed: July 2, 2003	:	PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Attorney Docket No. 14227US01	:	
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR	:	
AUTOMATIC MEDIA DEPENDENT	:	
INTERFACE RECONFIGURATION AND	:	
REPAIR	:	

This is in response to the "APPLICATION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 154(b) ACCOMPANYING OF NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE (37 CFR §1.705)" filed August 5, 2010. This request is properly treated under 37 CFR 1.705(b). Applicant requests that the determination of patent term adjustment be corrected from nine hundred eighty-two (982) days to one thousand six hundred nineteen (1,619) days.

As the instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is **DISMISSED as PREMATURE.**

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e) for consideration of the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b).

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.702(b). (This is true even where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed). The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b) calculation until the actual date of

issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under § 1.702(a)(4) or applicant delay under § 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office cannot make a determination on the correctness of the patent term adjustment until the patent has issued.

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent (or even the filing date of the request for continued examination) is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss as premature such a request.

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicant is advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent. However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicant must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee¹.

¹ For example, if applicant disputes both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application, then applicant must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the §1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.

To the extent that applicant otherwise requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, the application for patent term adjustment is **DISMISSED** to the extent indicated herein.

On May 27, 2010, the Office mailed the Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) in the above-identified application. The Notice stated that the patent term adjustment to date is 982 days. The instant application for patent term adjustment was timely filed on August 5, 2010.

Applicant contends that a 2-day reduction for the submission of the reply to the non-final Office action October 27, 2008 should not be assessed. Applicant maintains that since the response was submitted on the first business day after the deadline falling on a weekend the reply was not late and no reduction is required.

The Office has considered applicant's argument but does not find it persuasive. The Office has concluded that the reduction of 2 days was properly entered based on 37 CFR 1.704(b). 37 CFR §1.704(b) provides:

an applicant shall be deemed to have failed to engage in reasonable efforts to conclude processing or examination of an application for the cumulative total of any periods of time in excess of three months that are taken to reply to any notice or action by the Office making any rejection, objection, argument, or other request, measuring such three-month period from the date the notice or action was mailed or given to the applicant, in which case the period of adjustment set forth in §1.703 shall be reduced by the number of days, if any, beginning on the day after the date that is three months after the date of mailing or transmission of the Office communication notifying the applicant of the rejection, objection, argument, or other request and ending on the date the reply was filed.

In this instance, a reduction of 2 days for the submission of reply on October 27, 2009 is warranted. The PTA was properly reduced by 2 days, the number of days in excess of three months that was taken to reply to the July 25, 2008 Office action. The fact that a reply could be filed on October 27, 2009 and be deemed timely to avoid abandonment does not establish a reduction is not warranted. The actual date of receipt of the

correspondence in the Office is used for all other purposes. The Office notes that the date of filing of a paper will be used in calculating any periods of reduction of patent term adjustment. If applicant wanted to avoid a reduction applicant should have considered the use of the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service (37 CFR 1.10) or facsimile transmission (37 CFR 1.6(d)) for replies to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations. Alternatively, applicant could have chosen to mail correspondence with sufficient time to ensure that the correspondence is received in the Office (and stamped with a date of receipt) before the expiration of the three-month period. See MPEP 2731. As such the 2 day reduction will not be removed.


Applicant's delay prior to the mailing of the Notice of Allowance is 2 days. Office delay prior to the mailing of the Notice of Allowance is 984 days.

In view thereof, the determination of PTA at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance is nine hundred eighty-two (982) days.

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent must be timely filed within 2 months after issuance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) and **must** include payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.18(e).

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This application is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to Petitions Attorney Charlema Grant at (571) 272-3215.


Anthony Knight
Director
Office of Petitions